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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a novel
secreted polypeptide, termed Osteoprotegerin, which is a
5 member of the tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily
and is involved in the regulation of bone metabolism.
Also disclosed are nucleic acids encoding
Osteoprotegerin, polypeptides, recombinant vectors and
host cells for expression, antibodies which bind
10 Osteoprotegerin, and pharmaceutical compositions. The
polypeptides are used to treat bone diseases
characterized by increased resorption such as
osteoporosis.

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